

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 through 20 (as filed in the parent application) and restate, i.e., substitute the following claims in this continuation application:

A 1 21. In apparatus for processing wire to cut the wire into sections and to expose section wire ends, the wire having an inner core and sheathing about said core, the apparatus including a wire displacer for displacing the wire for processing, the combination comprising:

a) multiple blade structures, including at least two of said structures that move adjacent one another as said two structures move relatively oppositely toward and away from said wire in directions generally normal to said wire,

b) each of said two blade structures comprising at least two sections having cutting edges,

c) said cutting edges configured such that, when the two said blade structures are moved relatively longitudinally in a primary mode, two of said cutting edges cut in opposite directions through the wire, said two cutting edges being first and second cutting edges,

and when said two structures are moved relatively longitudinally in a second mode, the remaining two of said cutting edges cut in opposite directions into the wire sheathing to enable stripping of the sheathing off the wire, said remaining two cutting edges being third and fourth cutting edges, said first and third cutting edges being on one of said blade structures, and said second and fourth cutting edges being on the other of said blade structures,

d) and an actuator operatively connected to said blade structures for moving said blade structures adjacent one another as said two blade structures move relatively oppositely toward and away from said wire, as defined.

22. The combination of claim 21 wherein at least one of said two blade structures defines first shoulders elongated longitudinally and forming a space between which the other of said two blade structures extends during said relative movement.

23. The combination of claim 22 wherein said first shoulders are laterally spaced apart and face one another, and said other of said two blade structures has second shoulders also elongated longitudinally and extending in proximity with said first shoulders during said relative movement.

24. The combination of claim 21 including programming means operatively associated with said actuator to provide programmable strip depth of said sheathing.

25. The combination of claim 23 wherein said other blade structure includes a blade and a blade holder carrying said blade, said holder forming said second shoulders.

26. The combination of claim 21 wherein each of said blade structures extends at opposite sides of said wire.

27. The combination of claim 21 wherein said blade structures include blade plates having said cutting edges, said blade plates extending in close, parallel, overlapping relation during said relative movement.

28. The combination of claim 27 wherein said cutting edges on two of said overlapping plates provide V-shaped edge portions that overlap when the blade plates are moved in said second mode during said relative movement.

29. The combination of claim 23 wherein said first and second shoulders extend in endwise alignment with one another during said relative movement.

30. The combination of claim 23 wherein said first and second shoulders extend in laterally overlapping relation during said relative movement.

31. The combination of claim 21 including support structure for said blade structures for holding the blade structures in fixed positions on the support structure, each blade structure comprising two discrete blade plates, one plate carrying one V-shaped cutting edge and the other plate carrying another V-shaped cutting edge.

32. The combination of claim 31 including loading mechanism for loading at least one blade structure into said support structure, said loading mechanism positioned adjacent said support structure for said blade structures.

33. The combination of claim 31 including holders carried by the support structure for holding the blade structures attached in fixed positions on the support structure, and to allow release of the blade structures from the support structure, enabling their replacement.

34. In apparatus for processing wire, the combination comprising:

a) two blade structures, each of said two blade structures comprising at least two sections having first and second cutting edges on one said structure and third and fourth cutting edges on another said structure,

b) at least one drive,

c) and other mechanism operatively connected between said drive, and said blade structures, and responsive to operation of the drive, for causing one blade structure to be relatively displaced in direction A toward the wire as the other blade structure is relatively displaced in direction -A, to process the wire by cutting of the first and third edges into the wire, and subsequently to cause said one blade structure to be relatively displaced in direction -A, as said other blade structure is relatively displaced in direction A, to process the wire by cutting of the second and fourth edges into the wire.

35. The combination of claim 34 wherein each said blade structure includes two blades on separable sections of the blade structure.

36. The combination of claim 35 wherein said two blades respectively face in directions A and -A.

37. The combination of claim 34 wherein at least one of said edges is a generally V-shaped cutting edge.

38. In the method of processing wire, the steps that include

a) providing two blade structures, said structures provided to comprise at least two sections having first and second cutting edges on one said structure, and third and fourth cutting edges on another said structure,

b) providing at least one drive operatively connected to the blade structures,

c) and operating said drive to cause one

blade structure to be relatively displaced in direction A toward said wire as the other blade structure is relatively displaced in direction -A, to process the wire by cutting of the first and third edges into the wire, and subsequently to cause said one blade structure to be relatively displaced in direction -A, as said other blade structure is relatively displaced in direction A, to process the wire by cutting of the second and fourth edges into the wire.

39. The combination of claim 21 wherein the cutting edges on one structure have different configurations, and the cutting edges on the other structure have different configurations, the first cutting edge on the first structure having substantially the same configuration as the second cutting edge on the second structure, and the third cutting edge on the first structure having substantially the same configuration as the fourth cutting edge on the second structure.

40. The combination of claim 39 wherein the first cutting edge on the first structure has C-shape C_1 and the third cutting edge on the first structure has C-shape C_2 , and where C_1 is larger in size than C_2 .

41. In apparatus for processing wire, the combination comprising:

a) two blade structures, each of said two blade structures comprising at least two sections having two cutting edges,

b) at least one drive,

d) and said blade structures operatively coupled to the drive, and responsive to operation of the drive, for causing one blade structure to be relatively displaced in direction A toward said wire as the other blade structure is relatively displaced in direction -A, to process the wire by cutting of certain of said edges on said structures into the wire, and subsequently to cause said one blade structure to be relatively displaced in direction -A, as said other blade structure is relatively displaced in direction A, to process the wire by cutting of others of said edges into the wire.

Please add the following claims:

42. In apparatus for processing wire to cut the wire into sections and to expose section wire ends, the wire having an inner core and sheathing about said core, the apparatus including a wire displacer for displacing the wire for processing, the combination comprising:

- a) multiple blade pairs, including at least two of said pairs that move adjacent one another as said two pairs move relatively oppositely toward and away from said wire in directions generally normal to said wire,
- b) each of said two blade pairs comprising two blades having cutting edges,
- c) said cutting edges configured such that, when the two said blade pairs are moved relatively longitudinally in a primary mode, two of said cutting edges cut in opposite directions through the wire, said two cutting edges being first and second cutting edges, and when said two pairs are moved relatively longitudinally in a second mode, the remaining two of said cutting edges cut in opposite directions into the wire sheathing to enable stripping of the sheathing off

the wire, said remaining two cutting edges being third and fourth cutting edges, said first and third cutting edges being on blades comprising one of said blade pairs, and said second and fourth cutting edges being on blades comprising the other of said blade pairs,

d) and an actuator operatively connected to said blade pairs for moving said blade pairs adjacent one another as said two blade pairs move relatively oppositely toward and away from said wire, as defined.

43. The combination of claim 39 wherein the first cutting edge on the first structure has a V-shape, and the third cutting edge on the first structure has a C-shape.

44. In apparatus for processing wire, the combination comprising:

a) at least two blade pairs including blades at opposite sides of the wire,

b) at least one drive operatively connected to said blades,

c) and other mechanism operatively